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**Introduced by Senator Correa**

**(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Beall, Hernandez, Hill, Hueso,  
Huff, Roth, Steinberg, Walters, and Wyland)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Daly, Hagman, Harkey,  
Mansoor, Quirk-Silva, and Wagner)**

April 4, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 34—Relative to Black April Memorial Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 34, as introduced, Correa. Black April Memorial Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of April 23 to April 30, 2013, inclusive, as Black April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2013, marks the 38th anniversary of the  
2 fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, to communism; and  
3 WHEREAS, For many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who  
4 were directly involved in the war and Vietnamese Americans who  
5 have settled in the United States, the Vietnam War was a tragedy  
6 full of great suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and  
7 Southeast Asian lives; and  
8 WHEREAS, Fifty-eight thousand one hundred sixty-nine people  
9 were killed and 304,000 were wounded out of the 2.59 million  
10 people who served in the Vietnam War. One out of every 10  
11 Americans who served in Vietnam became a casualty of war; and

1 WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, over 135,000 Vietnamese  
2 people and their families fled to the United States, including former  
3 military personnel, government officials, and those who had  
4 worked for the United States during the war; and

5 WHEREAS, Thousands of people took boats in order to leave  
6 Vietnam in the late 1970s to mid-1980s. The successful emigrants  
7 reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the  
8 Philippines and Hong Kong; while approximately one-half of the  
9 people fleeing Vietnam perished at sea; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010,  
11 more than 465,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest  
12 concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing  
13 in Orange County; and

14 WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and  
15 protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of  
16 Vietnamese Americans; and

17 WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations  
18 important lessons from the Vietnam War, including how the plight  
19 of the Vietnamese refugees following the end of war serves as a  
20 powerful example of the values of freedom and democracy; and

21 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively  
22 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual  
23 freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just  
24 and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of  
25 time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers,  
26 medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War  
27 in pursuit of freedom; and

28 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout  
29 California will commemorate April 30, 2013, as Black April, a  
30 day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom,  
31 including freedom of expression, freedom of press, and internet  
32 freedom; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
34 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the great tragedy and  
35 suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the week of April  
36 23, 2013, to April 30, 2013, inclusive, shall be proclaimed Black  
37 April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to remember  
38 the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope  
39 for more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam; and be  
40 it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2     this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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